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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - NORTH KOREA AND THAILAND

11. LEAD STORIES: Front-page items on Tuesday morning included continued confrontation between Thai troops and antigovernment protesters in Bangkok.

12. "China Bears Heavier Responsibility" The liberal Mainichi editorialized (4/14): "Concerning North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile, the UN Security Council will adopt a presidential statement condemning the nation for violating UNSC resolutions. Although it is regrettable that a new resolution sought by Japan was not adopted, many of Japan's claims were incorporated in the statement. We seriously take the fact that the international community took concerted action against North Korea... China and Russia opposed the idea of adopting a new resolution out of concern that doing so would have a negative impact on the six-party talks. The two nations, especially China as chair of the six-party talks, should make maximum efforts to urge North Korea to return to the multilateral framework."

13. "Thailand Loses International Confidence" The moderate Yomiuri wrote in an editorial (4/14): "This is a real emergency for Thai Prime Minister Abhisit. In order to prevent the international image of Thailand from being damaged, the turmoil should be immediately calmed."

14. "Turmoil Should Be Immediately Calmed" The conservative Sankei said in an editorial (4/14): "A series of ASEAN-related meetings planned in Thailand were cancelled due to the antigovernment rallies there. The damage to international confidence in Thailand is immeasurable, as this is the second 'scandal' for the nation following the postponement of an ASEAN summit last December. Political confrontation should be immediately settled."

15. "Violence Should Be Stopped" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (4/14): "Violence escalated again in Thailand. The East Asia summit and other meetings were cancelled, and bloodshed

occurred between Thai troops and antigovernment protesters. The impact of the turmoil will extend beyond the nation. Thailand should take action to stop violence."

ZUMWALT